

Feliciano, Tiny, Taj Mahal for festivals

JOSE FELICIANO, the blind Puerto Rican singer/guitarist, will appear in Britain this year after all. The "Light My Fire" hitmaker has been signed for the all-star "Hollywood Music Festival" over the Whitsun weekend.

And Disc understands the festival may feature a unique "super-session." Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page and Pete Townshend, ardent fans of the three-piece James Gang, another American act on the bill, are expected to team up for a unique "jam" session with the group.

Feliciano completes a hat-trick "scoop" of major American acts for the festival, staged May 23/24 at Finney Farm, near Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Staffordshire. Grateful Dead and Country Joe and the Fish also appear.

Eliot Cohen, director of the Red Bus Company, behind the venture, told Disc: "It promises to match the Isle Of Wight as far as artists are concerned. We're amazed at the reaction we've received.

"The point is that we're catering for fans up north — something which hasn't been done very successfully before."

The "Hollywood" festival venue is 83 acres of farmland. And facilities include three giant accommodation marquees; additional camping space; catering (including two mobile vegetarian units); special coaches from Stoke and Crewe; and even a "Problem Tent" manned by a local vicar, where visitors are welcome "round-the-clock."

The festival will be filmed for a full-length feature for worldwide distribution.

Final billing has still to be settled but Disc understands that Family top the Saturday afternoon bill; Ginger Baker's Air Force the evening show; Grateful Dead Sunday afternoon; and Traffic Sunday evening. Jose Feliciano appears as "special guest star" — but it hasn't been decided whether he'll appear Sunday afternoon or evening.

Feliciano, Grateful Dead and Country Joe and the Fish will fly to Britain on a specially chartered

NEWS

New rival to 'Eurovision'

A POP festival to take over from 'Eurovision' — that's the description given to "Barbarela De Conjuntos '70," a new competition being staged in Palma, Majorca, from June 9-11 this year.

The contest is sponsored by Majorca's "Barbarela" discotheque and is open to GROUPS ONLY. Groups from all over Europe are being invited to submit material written and played by themselves. Winners will be selected by a special jury at the festival. First prize is about £750 — plus a gold "Barbarela" trophy.

Organiser is Joaquin Merino, "Barbarela De Conjuntos '70," Presidente Carmona; 11, 20 Izquierda; Madrid 20, Spain.

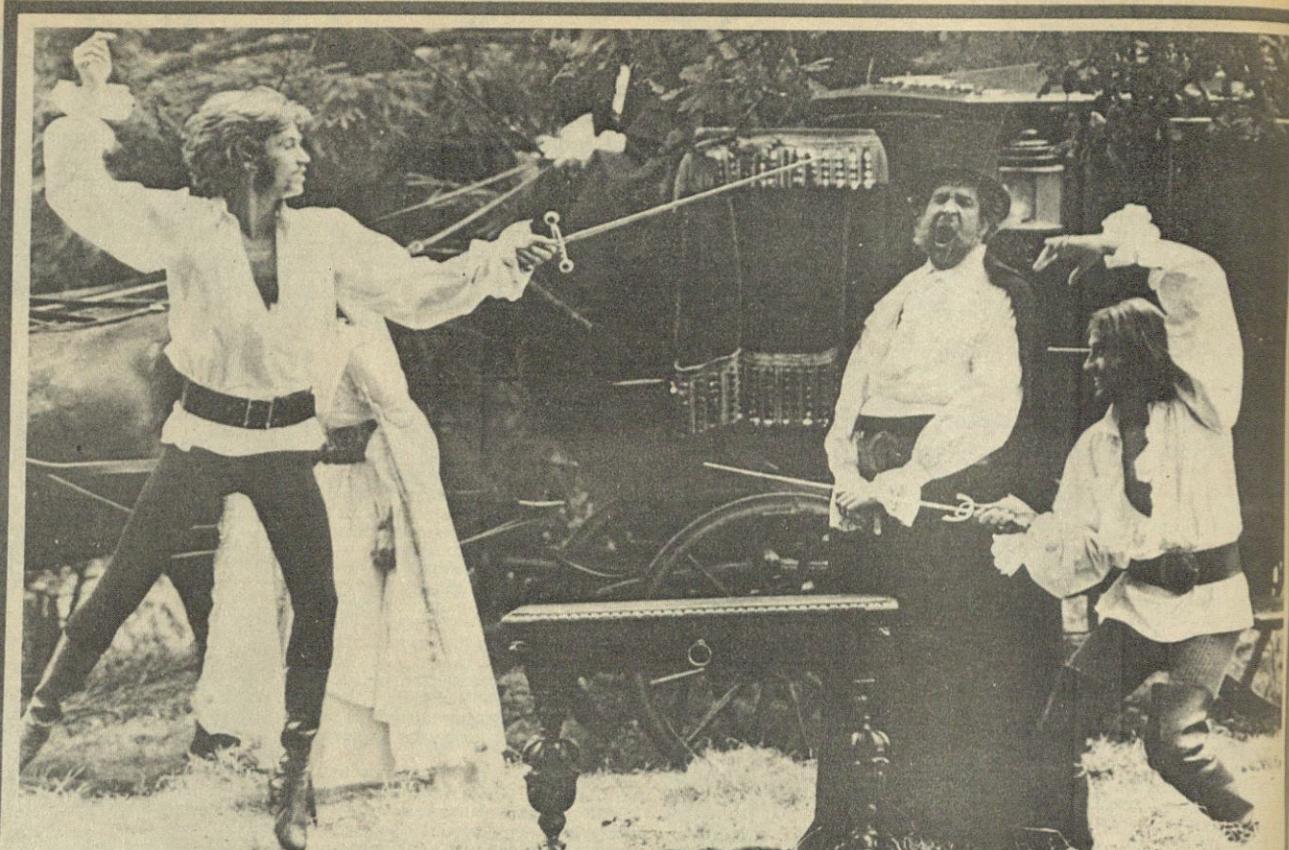
Frampton, Bown: record producers!

EX-HERD stars Peter Frampton and Andy Bown, revealed last week as "session" musicians on a single by new group Stampede, take on another role this week... as record producers.

Peter and Andy have together been responsible for the first LP, released at the end of May, by a new five-piece harmony group, Storyteller.

The album, for Transatlantic, features several songs written by the group plus numbers by John Phillips of Mamas and Papas, John Sebastian and Arlo Guthrie.

A single will be taken from the album for release at the same time. Storyteller make their London debut at the Festival Hall in



The duelling swordsmen are ex Bee Gees Barry (left) and Maurice Gibb and the bored referee is horror king Vincent Price in a scene from the Bee Gee period extravaganza "Cucumber Castle," now to be screened by BBC.

BEE GEE FILM FOR TV; CLIFF, CILLA, BACHARACH SHOWS SET

jet from Los Angeles. Spare seats will be offered to American visitors — with FREE tickets to the festival thrown in.

Final word from Eliot Cohen: "It seems everyone wants to 'jam' at our festival. I shouldn't be surprised if some other big names turn up on the day."

TAJ MAHAL and It's A Beautiful Day — hits of last week's London Concerts — are confirmed for the three-day Camden Arts Festival at London Roundhouse (May 1-3).

Final night of the festival (Friday) has been turned over to rock-n-roll. Marty Wilde and Joe Brown team with the Breakaways, Cuddy Dudley, Legend and Emperor Rosko for a "revival" meeting.

Family, Taste, Gipsy and Egg appear on Saturday. And Taj Mahal, It's A Beautiful Day, Renaissance, Keef Hartley Big Band, Spring and Ginger Johnson's African drummers complete the bill for Sunday.

TINY TIM has definitely been set for the Isle of Wight festival (August 28-31), Disc learned from America this week. He joins Richie Havens and Chicago.

Also on the bill will be Britain's Pentangle, currently engaged on their third US tour. They return on June 8 and then record an LP to tie-in with their British concert tour, which starts at London's Royal Albert Hall on September 26.

WILD ANGELS, Love Affair, Foundations, Black Sabbath, Steamhammer, Julie Felix, Harmony Grass, Colosseum, Caravan, Vivian Stanshall's Big Grunt, Status Quo, Meic Stevens and Panama — are all new names added to "Extravaganza '70," the pop and fashion festival being staged at London's Olympia between May 29 and June 6. Bob Dylan's "Don't Look Back," and specials by Led Zeppelin and Arctic Monkeys.

BEE GEES' "Cucumber Castle" TV spectacular has been sold to the BBC. Cliff Richard and Cilla Black are set for separate return-series. Two Burt Bacharach specials are set for June. And American songwriters Randy Newman and Joni Mitchell may get their own shows.

"Cucumber Castle," the Bee Gees' long-awaited, expensive TV project, started last year and disrupted by the dismissal of drummer Colin Peterson from the group, lasts an hour and features brand new material (all on the forthcoming Bee Gees LP).

It stars brothers Barry and Maurice Gibb, and guest appearances by Frankie Howerd, Vincent Price, Spike Milligan and Lulu. There is also an extract from film of the now-extinct Blind Faith Hyde Park concert last summer. No screening date has been decided by the BBC.

Cliff Richard whose first BBC TV series with Hank Marvin and Una Stubbs included Mary Hopkins' "Eurovision" songs, tapes follow-up shows this autumn for January 1970 screening. Cilla Black records her third BBC-1 series — of six shows — after the birth of her baby in July. This will also be screened from late January.

Burt Bacharach was in London this week taping two "specials" for ATV. Each lasts 50 minutes, and the first stars Dionne Warwick, Sacha Distel, and American Joel Grey. The other features Dusty Springfield, Juliet Prowse and Mireille Mathieu. Bacharach, writer of hits recorded by his guests, will appear in both shows accompanied by an orchestra, singers and dancers.

Disc understands that BBC-TV are currently negotiating with America to spotlight singer/composers Randy Newman and Joni Mitchell in their own shows before the end of the year.

North Sea — down but not beaten

RADIO North Sea, struck off the air again at the weekend following "jamming" by the Post Office of programmes on 190 metres, is down, but definitely not beaten.

The station, due back again sometime this week on the new wavelength of 217 metres, says it has financial resources to continue until the end of the year, "even if it means changing wavelength every week to beat the Government."

North Sea's London representative Ed Moreno told Disc: "Obviously, the station had to go off the air following the 'jamming,' but we will be back! North Sea has the equipment to change wavelength as often and as frequently as it likes; and we also have planned financially to continue the station, even on a test basis only, until the end of the year."

And the Free Radio Association, now boasting over 100,000



CILLA: new series

North Sea — down but not beaten

members and recently joined the Free Radio Campaign, has launched a £4,500 appeal to take legal action against the Government over the question of "jamming."

Another free radio association, the Campaign for Independent Broadcasting was this week lobbying MPs and pressing for urgent questions to be asked in the House of Commons concerning the legality of the "jamming."

Meanwhile, Underground station "Geronimo," still broadcasting every Saturday from midnight on 205 metres, was this week given clearance by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

This official endorsement of the station's legality, now means "Geronimo" will be able to obtain advertising from British companies.

Reed 'treble double'?

ACE hit-writer Les Reed is aiming for a unique "treble